(b) World Major Car manufacturers of Auto Components already having collaboration Arrangements in India.

(c) Names of World's Major manufacturers of Auto Components already having collaboration arrangments in India.

(d) Names of International OEs shopping in India.

ACMA

ACMA has brought out "Exhibitors Catalogue" for this occassion. Worldwide publicity to the ACMA Group participation has been given by ACMA through direct mailing to key international buyers. Publicity has also been done in countries like U.K., France, U.S.A., Canada, Japan, Korea, Malayasia, Australia, Pakistan etc., where ACMA has MoUs with counterpart organisations. ACMA has also advertised their participation on the World-Wide-Web on Internet.

ITPO has undertaken prefair publicity by inviting over 600 specially identified importers of auto components from Germany. It has also published a special brochure for the occasion which will be distributed at the fair to all visitors. It has tied up with the Indo German Export Promotion (IGEP) Programme for giving publicity to a larger number of buyers on the rolls of the IGEP, Germany. The IGEP has also publicised the participation of ITPO amongst the Media.

Foreign Direct Investment

5800. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals regarding foreign direct investment relating to automobile sector and proposals of Shell and Caltex pending with the Government for clearance; and

(b) since when the above proposals are pending and by when these are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) There are 8 proposals for foreign direct investment in Automobile sector pending with the Govt. No proposal of shell or Caltex is pending with the Government.

(b) Receipt and disposal of applications is a continuous process. Normally the foreign direct investment proposals are cleared in 6 weeks times.

Seizure of Teakwood

5801. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of seizures of teakwood during the last three months by the customs authorities in Assam and Nagaland after these have intered the stream of normal trade and commerce upon its redemption at entry points by the authorities in Manipur ;

(b) the reasons as to why the customs authorities could not check the movement of timber at originating point at Manipur;

(c) whether the Government propose to prescribe standard guidelines to be followed by timber dealers and also issue directives to the authorities concerned to act strictly in accordance with law; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Customs Authorities have not seized teakwood in Nagaland and Assam upon its redemption at entry points by the authorities at Manipur. However, details of smuggled teakwood seized by Customs Authorities in the State of Nagaland and Assam during the last three months is as follows :

	Qnty.	Value (Rs. in lacs.)
Nagaland	1529.326 cft.	5.79
Assam	8423.56 cft.	62.17

(b) Anti smuggling agencies on Indo-Myanmar Border in the State of Manipur are alert to detect and prevent all smuggling including smuggling of teakwood. However due to porous nature of Indo-Myanmar Border some cases of smuggling of teakwood into India from Myanmar have been noticed. Such smuggled teakwood remains liable to seizure and confiscation by Customs authorities.

(c) and (d). As far as smuggling of timber from Myanmar is concerned the Customs Authorities have been directed to act strictly in accordance with law. So far as standard guidelines to be followed by timber dealers are concerned, the Central Government are not considering issue of any such guidelines under the Customs Act, 1962.

Escorts Shares

5802. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether shares of Escorts Tractors has been transferred to non subsidiaries below the market price;

(b) if so, whether due to this shareholders have been deprived of crores of rupees while promoters have doubted their control to 40%;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the book value and market value of shares;

(d) whether Government's attention has also been invited towards the news item appearing in *Economic Times dated August 12, 1996 under caption* "Escorts merger blues: Shareholders deprived of crores "; and

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to sort out the issue and safeguard the interest of shareholders ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Voluntary Retirement Scheme

5803. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a new voluntary retirement scheme for the employees engaged in industrial units functioning in public sector of the country;

(b) if so, the outlines of this proposed draft scheme;

(c) whether the Govt. have identified the number of surplus employees in public sector institutions before introducing this scheme; and

(d) if so, the number of surplus employees engaged in these public sector institutions uptill April, 1996 ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). A Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the employees of Central Public Sector Enterprises was introduced in October 1988 with a view to reducing surplus manpower. Th scheme is still in operation. The option to avail benefit of the scheme is with the employees.

(c) and (d). Managements of Public Sector Undertakings are to identify the number of surplus staff depending on their requirements, from time to time.

Setting up New Industrial Areas

5804. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the government of Madhya Pradesh seeking approval for setting up of new Industrial areas in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the approval of the Union Government has since been accorded; and

(d) if not, by when the decision is likely to be taken on the above proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d). No, Sir. Setting up of new Industrial areas in the State is a subject being looked after by the concerned State Government.

[English]

Manufacture of EMD

5805. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of letters of intent issued by the Government for manufacture of Electrolytic Manganese Dioxide (EMD) and the letters out of them converted into industrial licences till now;

(b) the number of licences of various categories of Drycell manufacture in the country alongwith their installed and production capacity; and

(c) the estimated quantity of raw material for the above licences produced indigenously and the quantity imported during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). A letter of Intent issued on 30.1.1987 was later converted into an Industrial Licence dated 2.4.1991 in favour of M/s. Magno Mining Company Limited, Hyderabad (A.P.) for setting up a unit at Vizianagram, Andhra Pradesh for manufacture of Electrolytic Manganese Dioxide for a capacity of 2500 tonnes per annum. There are 22 licensed units in the country for manufacture of Dry Cell with a total installed capacity of 5872000 Thousands Nos. Annual Production during 1995-96 was 11,28,700 Thousands Nos. Information regarding indigenous and imported raw materials used for the purpose is not being centrally maintained.

Duty on Timber Trade

5806. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether directives issued to the customs authorities in Manipur with regard to redemption fines on timber flowing along Indo-Myanmar border ;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the redemption fines is quite high in the prevailing circumstances of the trade ;

(c) whether the Government propose to review the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No such directives have been issued

(b) Timber being smuggled into India from Myanmar is liable to confiscation and offenders liable to penalty under the Customs Act, 1962. The adjudicating authority who adjudges each case is empowered to give an option to the offender in such cases to pay a fine in lieu of confiscation which is also called redemption fine.

The adjudication orders passed in above cases were found to be defective, hence the Customs Department has preferred appeals before the Appellate Authorities concerned. Appeals are still pending.

(c) to (e). Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.